



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL, AND CHILD CARE

Congregational Report

September 2025

Our mission: To lead people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus

ShepherdLutheran.com

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Shepherding the Flock

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As you'll read in this newsletter, our staff and board leaders are looking forward to the new Sunday schedule, specifically the addition of the Discipleship Hour. With Discipleship Hour, we'll have new opportunities for growing in God's Word and growing in friendship with one another.

The change in schedule has led to a change in how we use space in the church building. We'll now have two large rooms upstairs dedicated to children and youth. We'll have the Youth Room for sixth through 12th grade and the Kids Min Room for third through fifth grade. In addition, we'll be using all three nursery rooms during Discipleship Hour so that all children's classes are in the church building, a convenient arrangement for parents as they drop off and pick up before and after worship services.

I'm also looking forward to engaging more of our adults in the Word. The large group Bible study will continue to be the pastor-led class in the Sky Rooms; Pastor Andy will begin a study of Nehemiah on Oct. 5 as a companion to our Nehemiah sermon series. As another option during Discipleship Hour, my wife Ashley is facilitating a women's Bible study in the school library; the topic is women of the Bible. Other Bible study options are currently under discussion.

As we spend more time in God's Word with one another, we can count on what God promises to do in His Word. "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall **My word** be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11)

God's blessings,
Pastor Chris

Katy Rohr, School Principal, krohr@shlutheran.org

Three things I want you to know about my ministry area ...

1. We've had a strong start to the year—new families are settling in quickly, finding their place in the community, and are excited to be part of the Ram Fam.
2. Extracurriculars are in full swing, from fall sports (K–8) to clubs like STEM, Lego, Rambotics, Art, Chess, and Drama. These opportunities give students the chance to explore new interests and discover hidden talents.
3. We've launched a new tradition to recognize students who S.O.A.R. (Stand Out And Rise Up). Each month highlights a character trait—this month was Respect—and teachers and staff nominate students who are celebrated at chapel. This builds a positive culture rooted in faith and excellence.

Ministry metrics ... Last year, we raised \$45,000—and this year, thanks to your incredible support, we raised more than \$48,000! These funds help empower our students through scholarships and sustain Shepherd, along with all the programs and resources that make our school so special. Thank you for being a part of this success!

I'm thankful for ... Our dedicated teachers and staff who go above and beyond the mission to ensure that every child is safe, happy, loved, and knows about God.

A great comment I heard recently at church was ... "I love Shepherd because I get to learn about God, and the teachers are the best!"

Dale Stein Jr., Congregation President, dalesteinjr1@gmail.com

Ministry metrics ...

The LCMS Texas District reviewed our revised Constitution and By-Laws and requested a modification. The congregation will review and approve the modification during the Sept. 28 congregational meeting. I hope to have the modification approved and sent to the District office for approval at the Texas District Board of Directors meeting in January.

I'm thankful for ...

The fantastic staff of our church and school. They are all very active in keeping activities running well.

A great comment I heard recently at church was ...

At the new member Rooted class, there were several families who had brought their children to our school. After seeing how well their children liked the school, the parents decided they wanted to be members of our church and are joining.

Mike Miller, Head Elder, 2021mamiller.papa@gmail.com

I am very thankful for the wonderful fellow Elders and Deaconesses that I have the opportunity to serve with. Our most recent community event, Bingo Night, was a huge success. Elders and Deaconesses pitched in to make it a great event for all attendees; however, Matt Smith deserves all the credit we can give him. He led a planning team of Ron Sipe and myself and displayed an amazing knack for organization and fun. He researched rules and gathered equipment to make sure all 160 attendees could participate. We look forward as a board to future fun-filled events.

As you know we will be transitioning to a new Sunday service schedule. The new schedule will allow for more adult fellowship and Bible study and more time to teach our children about God's promises to us. We believe this transition has been well researched, and we look forward to the new Sunday schedule.

A great comment I heard at church came from a visitor whose church had been served by one of our retired pastors filling a preaching vacancy. He said, "After hearing Pastor Doug preach, I had to visit Shepherd to see what was happening there and I wasn't disappointed. I will come back when I get another chance!"

Rev. Andy Johnson, Associate Pastor, pastorandy@shepherdlutheran.com

Three things I want you to know about my ministry area . . .

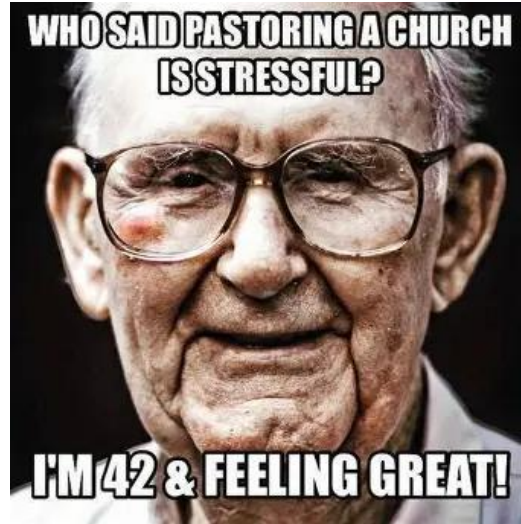
1. I'm very excited to welcome so many additional people to our Discipleship Hour beginning in October!
2. The Catechism year is off to a great start. We have a good number of kids again this year.
3. I've already had quite a few school families reach out to me about having their students baptized this year.

Ministry metrics . . . We've had so many visitors and new members in recent months!

I'm thankful for . . . all of our wonderful school families!

A great comment I heard recently at church was . . . "I wanted to say thank you for accepting my family and I into your church. We felt so welcomed by everyone."

[Jeremy Gawf, Business Manager, jgawf@shlutheran.org](mailto:jgawf@shlutheran.org)



- As of Sept. 10 the current weekly average giving is \$20,832. Ministry Plan need is \$21,103.
- Summer venue ministry brought a partnership with i9. i9 utilized the facility to run a summer sports camp. The administrative team and families using the Family Life Center Gym were truly impressed with our facilities.
- Painting in the church office lobby area was the last project improvement on campus. The new paint has brightened up the office area giving the space a clean look.
- I'm thankful to see the kids back on campus for the start of a new school year. Go Rams Go!

[Roger Howard, Director of Worship, roger@shepherdhlutheran.com](mailto:roger@shepherdhlutheran.com)

Three things I want you to know about my ministry area:

1. Our church choir welcomes THREE new singers this season: EJ Perales, Luke Garcia, and Mikey Hinojosa. All singers are welcome to rehearse in the balcony on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m.
2. Our Saturday praise team welcomes new vocalist Tammy Onofre from Boerne. She brings a powerful voice and lots of experience to our contemporary worship.
3. Our staff is playing "musical chairs" with our office spaces because of changes to the upstairs youth room and choir room. I will be moving to Lauren White's office, and the choir music files will move to Jeremy's former office downstairs by the circle drive entrance.

I'm thankful for ... my wife Jeanmarie as we celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary this past June.

A great comment I heard recently at church: "I want to donate to help build the wall for Child Beyond, International in Guatemala."

[Lauren White, Director of Christian Education, lauren@shepherdlutheran.com](mailto:lauren@shepherdlutheran.com)

Three things I want you to know about my ministry area ...

1. Our youth led the September book drive, and it was a big success—thank you for your generous donations!
2. With the new Sunday worship schedule, I'm excited to see more opportunities for kids and youth to serve in worship and grow in their faith.
3. Mark your calendars for July 2028—we're heading to the LCMS National Youth Gathering!

Ministry metrics ...

1. **Shepherd's Kids Attendance:** This summer we averaged 42 children each weekend, an increase from the 2024 summer average of 32 children.
2. **Mission Trip:** A total of 13 participants took part in the mission trip to Waco this summer.

I'm thankful for ... I am grateful for those who have stepped forward to lead Discipleship Hour for both children and youth.

A great comment I heard recently at church was ... "I am impressed by the youth and their generous hearts to lead the book drive. I think it is wonderful that they wanted to do it!"

[Laura Delz, Director of Community Relations, ldelz@shlutheran.org](mailto:ldelz@shlutheran.org)

Three things I want you to know about my ministry area ...

1. I'm training with Nanette in order to smoothly transition fully into my role at the end of the year. There is so much to learn!
2. Working with our team to create a realistic marketing plan to elevate what we are already achieving here at Shepherd.
3. Continue to build valuable partnerships in order to stay connected and engaged with our surrounding community.

I'm thankful for ... this new opportunity to serve our church, school, and child care!

A great comment I heard recently at church was ... "We have had so many children in church! What a wonderful sign of our church growing."

Three things I want you to know about my ministry area ...

1. Venue Ministry continues to thrive thanks to the blessings of our Lord!
2. Daily training with Laura Delz, Director of Community Relations, as I prepare to hand her the baton at the end of this year.
3. I will begin training Jeremy Gawf and Anne Snell to take over the Venue Ministry.

Ministry metrics ...

1. The School gym is booked four days out of the week for venue rentals.
2. The Family Life Center is booked Saturdays and Sundays for venue rentals.
3. The Family Life Center Sky Rooms are booked for weekend celebrations including birthdays, baby showers, bridal showers, and holiday celebrations.

I'm thankful for ... The gift of Laura Delz our new team member who serves daily with much love and compassion.

A great comment I heard recently at church was ... "I love the beautiful flowers that surround our church!" (Thanks to Mark and Michael Barrella who tend weekly to our Shepherd flowers and plants!)



**New Sunday Morning Schedule ...
Beginning October 5!
9:00 Traditional Service
10:00-11:00 Discipleship Hour
11:00 Contemporary Service**